

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A water-retention system for use in a barrier-free or curbless handicapped shower, the water retention system comprising:  
a threshold including a collapsible outer shell ~~that allows unobstructed passage across the threshold when in a compressed state~~, the outer shell having an inner chamber, at least one surface for preventing the passage of water, and a first surface configured to serve as a barrier to water and a second surface for attachment to a floor, the second surface having a recess for receiving an adhesive; and  
end caps attached at ends of the collapsible outer shell.
2. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 wherein said collapsible outer shell is compressible foam.
3. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 wherein said collapsible outer shell includes an air-filled chamber.
4. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 wherein said first surface is arch-shaped.
5. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 further comprising an adhesive tape positioned within the recess, the adhesive applied to the tape.

6. (Currently Amended) The water-retention system as recited in claim [8] 5, wherein the adhesive is water-resistant.
7. (Currently Amended) The water-retention system as recited in claim [9] 5, wherein the tape is water-resistant.
8. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 3 wherein the air-filled chamber enables compression of the collapsible outer shell.
9. (Currently Amended) A water-retention system for use in a barrier-free or curbless handicapped shower, the water retention system comprising: a threshold including a collapsible outer shell, the outer shell having at least one surface for preventing the passage of water, and a first surface configured to serve as a barrier to water and a second surface for attachment to a floor, the second surface having a recess for receiving an adhesive, and an air-filled chamber, wherein a plug seals the opening of the air-filled chamber.
10. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 wherein said first surface has a generally triangular cross section.
11. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 further comprising end caps, the end caps attached at the end tips of the collapsible outer shell.
12. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 1 wherein the collapsible outer shell is sized and shaped to retain a shower curtain inside the bathing area.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The water retention system as recited in claim 1~~ A water-retention system for use in a barrier-free or curbless handicapped shower, the water retention system comprising:  
a threshold including a collapsible outer shell, the outer shell having an inner chamber, at least one surface for preventing the passage of water, and a first surface configured to serve

as a barrier to water and a second surface for attachment to a floor, the second surface having a recess for receiving an adhesive, wherein the collapsible outer shell extends vertically along the walls of a water-retention area.

14. (Previously Presented) The water-retention system as recited in claim 13 wherein the vertically extending extension is configured to absorb the impact energy of passage across the threshold.

15. (Currently Amended) A water-retention threshold comprising:

a collapsible outer foam shell ~~to allow unobstructed passage across the threshold when in a compressed state~~, the collapsible outer shell attaching to a floor and extending vertically along the walls of a water-retention area, the vertically extending extension configured to absorb the impact energy of passage across the threshold;

an air-filled inner chamber, the air-filled inner chamber enabling compression of the collapsible outer shell;

at least one surface configured to serve as a barrier to water, the water-barrier surface being arch-shaped and having a generally triangular cross-section;

a second surface for attachment to a floor, the second surface having a recess for receiving a water-resistant adhesive tape; and

end caps to seal the air-filled inner chamber, the end caps attaching at the end tips of the collapsible outer shell.

16. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 13 wherein said collapsible outer shell is compressible foam.

17. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 13 wherein said collapsible outer shell includes an air-filled chamber.

18. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 13 wherein said first surface is arch-shaped.

19. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 13 further comprising an adhesive tape positioned within the recess, the adhesive applied to the tape.

20. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 19, wherein the adhesive is water-resistant.

21. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 19, wherein the tape is water-resistant.

22. (New) The water-retention system as recited in claim 17 wherein the air-filled chamber enables compression of the collapsible outer shell.